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from nine to twelve feet in height and the only solid steel is that forming the division walls. There is a window in each cell, which is protected with an extra heavy tool-proof guard connected to the steel lining. All walls to which the prisoners have access are lined with steel, thus affording them no opportunity for digging out.

"Superimposed cells are those built in tiers—i. e., one on top of the other—in some cases being as many as four tiers high.

"This construction of cell work is not being installed by this department in any of the new jails. Separate floors are required for each block of cells.

"Safety vestibule: This is a small enclosure of grating with double doors through which the prisoner enters a cell apartment. He is put into it, and the outer door locked; then the next, or inner, door is unlocked by means of a lever from the outside, and the prisoner is admitted to the apartment. This is a precautionary measure for the safety of the sheriff or jailer." R. H. G.

Stripes to be Abolished in Louisiana.—Stripes, the soul-depressing stigma of the penitentiary, must go.

So thoroughly has the Probe Commission, during its investigation of the state penal system, impressed this upon the Board of Control, that the board members have announced unofficially that when the supply of shame-branding fabric now on hand is exhausted no more will be ordered. Instead, a less conspicuous garb, probably khaki, will be adopted.

The change from black and white khaki will be gradual. The most exemplary convicts will be extended the privilege of wearing the new uniform first and the stripes will be left as a legacy to the undeserving. The Board of Control believes that such a scheme will furnish prisoners with an incentive to raise themselves and will reflect itself upon the whole penitentiary system.

It is proposed to divide the convicts into classes, according to their conduct. Class B convicts will be stripe wearers; Class A men will be given khaki. This will be continued, it is expected, as long as the coarse-woven striped cloth lasts. The Board of Control has several thousand dollars worth of it stored within the walls at Baton Rouge, but when it has all been used up, khaki will fill the huge storerooms instead and stripes will no longer be seen in the court yard of the walls or in the fields of the penal farms.

The members of the Board of Control today were asked by the Probe Commission to submit formal reports containing recommendations of reforms in which the penal system, they thought, should be instituted. The gradual abolition of stripes all are in favor of. Other recommendations which they will advocate and which most probably will be endorsed by the Probe Commission are:

Abolition, or curtailment of corporal punishment.

Purchase of a tract of timber land in North Louisiana which may be cleared by convicts and lumber manufactured from the timber, the tract later to be utilized for a penal farm.

Substitution of concrete buildings for the dilapidated structure of Oakley and Monticello plantations.

Purchase of a barge or houseboat for the quartering of levee gangs on the Atchafalaya.

The board believes that sickness among the convicts engaged in levee work

can be reduced by quartering them on such craft, which would also allow the board to take contracts in places where it is now impossible for the gangs to go because marshy ground will not permit the establishment of a camp.—*The Times-Picayune*, April 4, 1915.

Labor Men to Aid Osborne.—A delegation of labor men called on Gov. Whitman on Feb. 1 to tell him that they proposed to help Thomas Mott Osborne, the new Warden of Sing Sing, put the industries in that prison on an efficient footing. They asked the Governor's support for their proposed co-operation and the Governor assured them of his appreciation of their offer.

In the delegation were Collis Lovely, vice president of the boot and shoe workers; Thomas J. Manning, representing the garment workers, and Hugh Franey, the New York representative of the American Federation of Labor. Accompanying the labor men were Warden Osborne, Frederick Goetze, dean of the science department at Columbia, and E. Stagg Whitin, member of the National Committee on Prisons and Prison Labor.

There was a preliminary conference at Sing Sing a week earlier. The labor representatives propose to send union men up to the shops to make the industries efficient, and to establish an apprentice system which will train the prisoners for work at trades when they get out. The unions have all along opposed the old contract system, and are anxious to do all in their power to make effective the state-use system now in vogue.—From *New York Evening Post*, Feb. 2, 1915.

Capital Punishment.—It may be a matter of reasonable doubt to say that the death penalty does not stay the slayer because in states where capital punishment exists he has almost 98 chances out of 100 to escape. It would make a far more telling argument for the opposite opinion to say: "Give capital punishment a trial first before you attempt to abolish it." New York and Chicago together have a population about equal to London. In 1913 these two cities had a total of 417 murders; just twenty times as many as London, which, out of its twenty murderers, had hanged fifteen. May it not be possible that the slackness of the law, the misuse of its criminal proceedings, vastly more than the law itself must be blamed? Society owes to itself adequate protection. What guarantee has society against the murderer who, escaping the noose, goes to jail in the confidence that sooner or later he will be turned back on it? There are many awful features to capital punishment that are shocking and abhorrent, but we prefer these rather than a mawkish sentimentality that might leave us a prey to weak doctrinaires. Should capital punishment be abolished in this state, one safeguard should be given—the power of pardoning should be taken from the governor.—From the *New York World*.

Preliminary Report of the Commission on Prison Reform of the State of New York.—The Commission on Prison Reform of the State of New York was created on June 21, 1913, by appointment of the Governor of the State. He gave instructions to the members of the Commission to examine and investigate the management and affairs of the several State penitentiaries and reformatories, the departments thereof, the prison industries, the construction and plans for adequate prison facilities, the employment of convict labor, and all subjects relating to the proper maintenance and control of the prisons of the State of New York. The report is signed by: Professor George W.